Message Text

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CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: UNSC, SF, WA

SUBJECT: SECURITY COUNCIL: SOUTH AFRICA

1. THREE AFRICAN SC MEMBERS--BENIN, LIBYA AND MAURITIUS--HAVE FORMALLY ASKED THAT THE COUNCIL GRANT A HEARING TO MR. WILLIAM P. THOMPSON IN CURRENT DEBATE. NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR HARRIMAN IS THE INITIATOR OF THIS ACTION. AFTER CONSULTING WITH OTHER WEO MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL, WE HAVE DECIDED TO ACQUIESCE IN THIS REQUEST. THOMPSON WISHED TO SPEAK 23 MARCH SINCE HE WAS DEPARTING FOR A MINNEAPOLIS ENGAGEMENT ON THE 24TH BUT IS TRYING TO DELAY HIS DEPARTURE AND WILL PRESUMABLY SPEAK IN THE COUNCIL MEETING ON THE 24TH.

2. WILLIAM POWELL THOMPSON IS A LONG-TIME MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE US AND A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES SINCE 1966 AND HEAD OF ITS INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE.

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HE IS A RESIDENT OF PRINCETON, N.J. AND HAS OFFICES IN NYC. WE UNDERSTAND HE WILL BE SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES.

3. AS AMBASSADOR YOUNG POINTS OUT, THE REQUEST FOR A HEARING IS BEING MADE BY THE THREE AFRICAN SC MEMBERS; IT IS NOT ONE WIHICH THE U.S. SUPPORTS.

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Message Attributes

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